

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 NASSAU 00571 302319Z

62

ACTION ARA-20

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C O N F I D E N T I A L NASSAU 571

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRN, ETEL, BF

SUBJECT: MARCH 29 MEETING WITH FONMIN

REF: STATE 47298; STATE A-450; STATE 62629

1. USING THE AMBASSADOR'S FORTHCOMING CONSULTATIONS IN WASHINGTON AS POINT OF DEPARTURE, AMBASSADOR AND DCM MET WITH FONMIN ADDERLEY AND PER SEC RUSSELL AFTERNOON OF MARCH 28 TO REVIEW LIST OF OUTSTANDING REQUESTS AND PROBLEMS. THE FOLLOWING IS SUMMARY STATUS REPORT. AS INDICATED, SEPTELS WILL BE SENT ON CERTAIN SPECIFIC SUBJECTS:

A. PRECLEARANCE AGREEMENT: ADDERLEY SAID TEXT OF DRAFT PRECLEARANCE AGREEMENT INCORPORATING LANGUAGE LEFT WITH HIM ON DEC 10, 1973 BY ORTMAN TEAM, TECHNICAL CHANGES GIVEN IN DAN LEWIS LETTER OF MARCH 4, 1974, AND CERTAIN GRAMMATICAL CHANGES HAD BEEN PREPARED AND PROBABLY WOULD BE CONSIDERED BY CABINET SESSION ON TUESDAY APRIL 9. AMBASSADOR POINTED OUT THAT DEC 10 LANGUAGE HAD BEEN GIVEN INFORMALLY TO ADDERLEY FOR HIS CONSIDERATION AND THAT IT HAD NOT YET BEEN FORMALLY CONSIDERED
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 NASSAU 00571 302319Z

BY US GOVERNMENT. AMBASSADOR WENT ON TO SAY THAT IT

WAS OUR HOPE THAT WE COULD HAVE THE DRAFT NOW READY FOR BAHAMIAN CABINET CONSIDERATION WITH A VIEW TO ASSURING US GOVERNMENTS APPROVAL BEFORE BAHAMIAN GOVERNMENT COMMITTED ITSELF TO THAT LANGUAGE. ADDERLEY SAID HE HAD BEEN ADVISED THAT US GOVERNMENT HAD APPROVED THE LANGUAGE AND UNTIL HE COULD STRAIGHTEN OUT THE SOURCE OF THE CONFUSION AS TO WHETHER WE HAVE AGREED TO LANGUAGE HE HAS NOW BEFORE HIM, HE DID NOT WANT TO GIVE US THE DRAFT. SEPTTEL WILL FOLLOW WITH FURTHER INFORMATION ON HOW AND IN WHAT AREAS THE CONFUSION HAS ARISEN, ADDERLEY SAID MINEXTAFF WOULD BE IN TOUCH WITH EMBASSY EARLY NEXT WEEK TO TRY TO GET THIS STRAIGHTENED OUT.

B. PRE-SUNRISE AGREEMENT: ADDERLEY WAS UNFAMILIAR WITH THIS, WHICH RUSSELL DESCRIBED AS A "COMEDY OF ERRORS." AIDE-MEMOIRE AND PROPOSED TEXT OF A PRE-SUNRISE AGREEMENT, LEFT WITH MINEXTAFF FEB 1, 1974 HAD BEEN GIVEN BY MINISTRY TO BAHAMAS TELECOMMUNICATIONS CORPORATION (BATELCO), BUT SHORTLY AFTER, BROADCASTING BRIEF WAS SWITCHED FROM BATELCO TO BROADCAST COMMISSION. FILE WAS THEN SENT TO THE BROADCASTING COMMISSION WHICH SHORTLY THEREAFTER UNDERWENT A CHANGE IN THE CHAIRMANSHIP. AS BEST MINEXTAFF IS ABLE TO DETERMINE, THE FILE REMAINS WITH THE BROADCASTING COMMISSION. THIS CONFLICTS WITH OUR INFORMATION THAT IT IS IN THE PRIME MINISTERS OFFICE. WHATEVER THE STATUS, MINEXTAFF ADDERLEY AGREED IT IS THE MINISTRY'S JOB TO PRESS THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE FOR REPLY, AND AS MINEXTAFF VIEW IS THIS IS STRICTLY TECHNICAL EXCHANGE, WE WOULD EXPECT AN EARLY REPLY.

C. RETURN OF SAN SALVADOR PROPERTY: ADDERLEY AND RUSSELL CLEARLY HAD ANTICIPATED THAT AMBASSADOR WOULD RAISE QUESTION OF BAHAMIAN FAILURE TO RESPOND TO THE EMBASSY'S NOTE OF JULY 16, 1973 PROPOSING AN EXCHANGE OF NOTES TO EFFECT THE RETURN OF THE SAN SALVADOR PROPERTY TO THE BAHAMAS. IT IS OUR GUESS THE PLANS TO HAND US THE NOTE TODAY WENT AWRY BECAUSE OF A TYPO WHICH DATED IT FEB 28 INSTEAD OF MARCH 28. BAHAMIAN NOTE WAS IN THE TYPEWRITER AT THE TIME OF THE AMBASSADOR'S CALL.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 NASSAU 00571 302319Z

D. RADIOISOTOPE GENERATOR: ADDERLEY SAID THAT THE BAHAMIAN GOVERNMENT DID NOT KNOW ENOUGH ABOUT NUCLEAR POWER AND RADIOISOTOPE GENERATORS TO RESPOND TO OUR REQUEST TO INSTALL A SENTINEL 100F GENERATOR AT THE US NAVAL FACILITY AT ELEUTHERA. IT ALSO DID NOT HAVE ENOUGH INFO AT ITS COMMAND TO POSE QUESTIONS. ADDERLEY SAID HE HOPES TO HAVE SUCH INFO WITHIN THE WEEK, AT WHICH TIME THE BAHAMIAN GOVERNMENT WILL GET BACK TO US ON THIS PROJECT.

E. RELOCATION OF LORAC FACILITY: THE EMBASSY REQUEST OF MARCH 7, 1974 FOR GCOB CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUSLY OBTAINED AUTHORIZATION TO RELOCATE THE LORAC FACILITY FROM ALLAN'S CAY TO PRIVATE PROPERTY ON GREAT ABACO ISLAND HAS BEEN APPROVED. UNTIL AMBASSADOR RAISED THE QUESTION, ADDERLEY ASSUMED WE HAD RECEIVED GCOB REPLY. A SEARCH FOR THE NOTE RESPONDING AFFIRMATIVELY HAS BEEN STARTED. WHEN RECEIVED, TEXT WILL BE SENT SEPTEL.

F. PROJECT TOP SEA: CONSIDERABLE PORTION OF AMBASSADOR'S DISCUSSION WITH ADDERLEY WAS DEVOTED TO THE BAHAMIAN RESPONSE TO OUR REQUEST WITH RESPECT TO PROJECT TOP SEA, AND IS BEING REPORTED SEPTEL. BRIEFLY, THE BAHAMIAN DECISION WAS MADE IN THE CONTEXT OF BAHAMIAN/CUBAN RELATIONS, SENSITIVITIES IN THOSE RELATIONS WITH RESPECT TO THE CAY SAL AREA AND THE BAHAMIAN DILEMMA IN A SITUATION IN WHICH IT DID NOT WANT TO SAY "NO" TO THE US BUT FELT THAT COULD NOT SAY "YES".

G. FACILITIES AND OPERATING RIGHTS NEGOTIATIONS: ADDERLEY AGREED THAT ALL OF THE REQUESTED TEXTS, MAPS, AND REPORTS ARE NOW WITH THE GCOB AND THAT THE INITIATIVE FOR THE NEXT PHASE RESTS WITH THE BAHAMIANS. HE DID NOT KNOW WHEN THAT PHASE WOULD BEGIN AS HE SAID HE WAS UNABLE TO BEGIN HIS STUDY OF THE DOCUMENTS UNTIL ALL OF THEM, INCLUDING SEABEDS MAPS, WERE IN HIS POSSESSION. SPIERS

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